DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 421 605 UD 032 460

AUTHOR	Shirley, Dennis
TITLE	Community Organizing for Urban School Reform.
ISBN	ISBN-0-292-77719-1
PUB DATE	1997-00-00
NOTE	338p.
AVAILABLE FROM	University of Texas Press, P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713-7819 (paperback: ISBN-0-292-77719-1; clothbound: ISBN-0-292-77718-3).
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Case Studies; *Community Organizations; *Educational Change; Elementary Secondary Education; *Low Income Groups; *Partnerships in Education; Poverty; *Urban Schools
IDENTIFIERS	*Industrial Areas Foundation; Texas

ABSTRACT

This book tells the story of an innovative approach to educational change in urban schools. Using a case study approach, the book describes how working class parents, public school teachers, clergy, social workers, business partners, and other engaged citizens have worked to improve education in inner-city schools. Their combined efforts are linked through the community organizations of the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), which have developed a network of over 100 "alliance" schools in poor and working-class neighborhoods throughout Texas. The economic dislocations, decline in political participation, and social disorganization that characterize the national educational predicament are described, and then background information is given on the origins of the IAF in Texas. The organization's philosophy of education and its strategies of community organizing around issues of school change and neighborhood development are reviewed. The narrative then moves to case studies in which local organizations of the Texas IAF have mobilized low-income citizens for new networks. The case studies are not limited to individual schools, but include both citywide and statewide initiatives that reflect the capacity of community-based organizations to develop political power. The following chapters are included: (1) "The Contemporary Context"; (2) "Moving Schools into the Power Arena"; (3) "Morningside Middle School: Starting a Path for Change"; (4) "Jefferson Davis High School: The Struggle for Reform"; (5) "Ysleta Elementary School: From Parental Engagement to a New School"; (6) "Zavala Elementary School: Learning the Tools of Democracy"; (7) "San Antonio: Building Networks of Reform throughout the City"; (8) "Texas: Alliance Schools throughout the State"; (9) "Resistance to Change"; (10) "The Pursuit of Success"; (11) "'A Great Truth Wants To Be Criticized'"; and (12) "Building Laboratories of Democracy." (Contains 130 references.) (SLD)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****